

A New Staphylinid Beetle (Col. Staphylinidae)  
found in the Nest of *Tatera brantsii*  
(Rodentia, Muridae)

(Third contribution to knowledge of African Staphylinidae.)

by

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(Submitted through Dr. B. de Meillon)

***Philonthus tateræ*** nov. spec.

The head and thorax black, the elytra and the abdomen dark pitchy-brown, the deflected margins, the hind margins and the suture of the elytra narrowly yellow, the hind margins of the abdominal tergites narrowly reddish-brown, the mouth-parts, the first two joints of the antennæ and the legs clear yellowish-brown, the rest of joints of antennæ dark pitchy-brown.

*Head* in its outline nearly square, smooth and highly polished, with large, flattened convex eyes, its longitudinal diameter, seen from above, longer than the cheek-formed temples. Between the eyes a transversal row of four stout punctures, the two interior punctures close to the two exterior punctures near the interior edge of the eyes. The temples and the underside of the head below the eyes feebly punctured.

*Antennæ* rather long and slender. First joint long, club-shaped, second and third joint nearly of the same length, both two-thirds length of first, fourth joint nearly square, somewhat thicker than the third, the following joints as long as the fourth joint, but evidently somewhat transversal, the last joint one-half longer than the penultimate. Beginning with the fourth, all joints are covered with a dense and dark pubescence.

*Thorax* in its outline also nearly square, also smooth and highly polished, its front border nearly straight, its side-borders backwards somewhat dilated, its basal margin broadly rounded. Dorsally there are five stout punctures, adjacent to this row long dark setæ are inserted into two stout punctures and on the borders of the thorax shorter dark hairs are inserted in several feeble punctures on the margin-line. *Scutellum* large, triangular, closely and finely punctured. *Elytra* as long as and a little broader than the thorax, somewhat shining, closely and finely punctured and chestnut pilosed. *Wings* well developed. *Abdomen* in its outline from base to end gradually constricted, the first three uncovered tergites with a rather deep transverse furrow along the base. Surface of the tergites very closely and finely punctured and chestnut pilosed, therefore only a little shining. The fifth uncovered tergite bears on its hind margin a very fine white membranous edge. *Legs* as in the other related species, in the same manner bristled and spiniferous, the anterior tarsi of the male strongly dilated.

The male has on the hind margin of the last abdominal sternite a small triangular excision, the surface of the sternite before this excision is somewhat impressed and smoothed.

*Ædæagus* of the male is on the base somewhat vesicle-like swelled, to the end strongly pointed, the end bears ventrally a sharp keel. The curious formed parameron articulates ventrally on the basal part of the *ædæagus* in form of a bilobed plate, then the body of the parameron is divided into two appendages of different length, forming in this manner an asymmetric forket, of which the right prong of the fork is nearly twice as long as the left. The internal sack bears in its membranous coats dorsally two stronger chitinized elliptic plates and before its overturning place a small cricoid thickening.

Length 8 mm.

This very interesting species has been discovered a short time ago in the nests of *Tatera brantsii* (Rodentia, Muridæ) in South Africa and was collected by Mr. W. D. Oliff. I have before me one ♂ (Type) from Vredetort, Orange Free State, 19.8.1949, coll. Nr. O.108, locus 2627 AD; one ♀ (Type) from Zuurbekom, Transvaal, Roodepoort district, 2.6.1949, coll. Nr. O.60, locus 2627; one ♂ (Paratype) from Zuurbekom, Transvaal, Roodepoort district, 3.6.1949, coll. Nr. O.63, locus 2627.

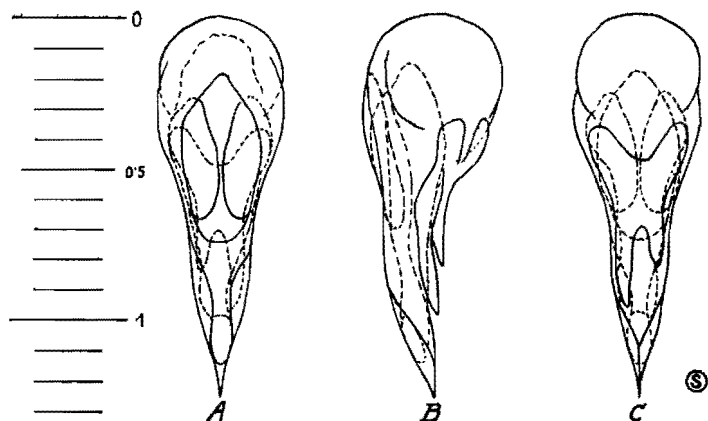


Fig. 1. — *Ædæagus* of the male of *Philonthus tateræ* sp. nov. — A. Dorsal view. — B. Lateral view on right side. — C. Ventral view. — Scale in millimetres.

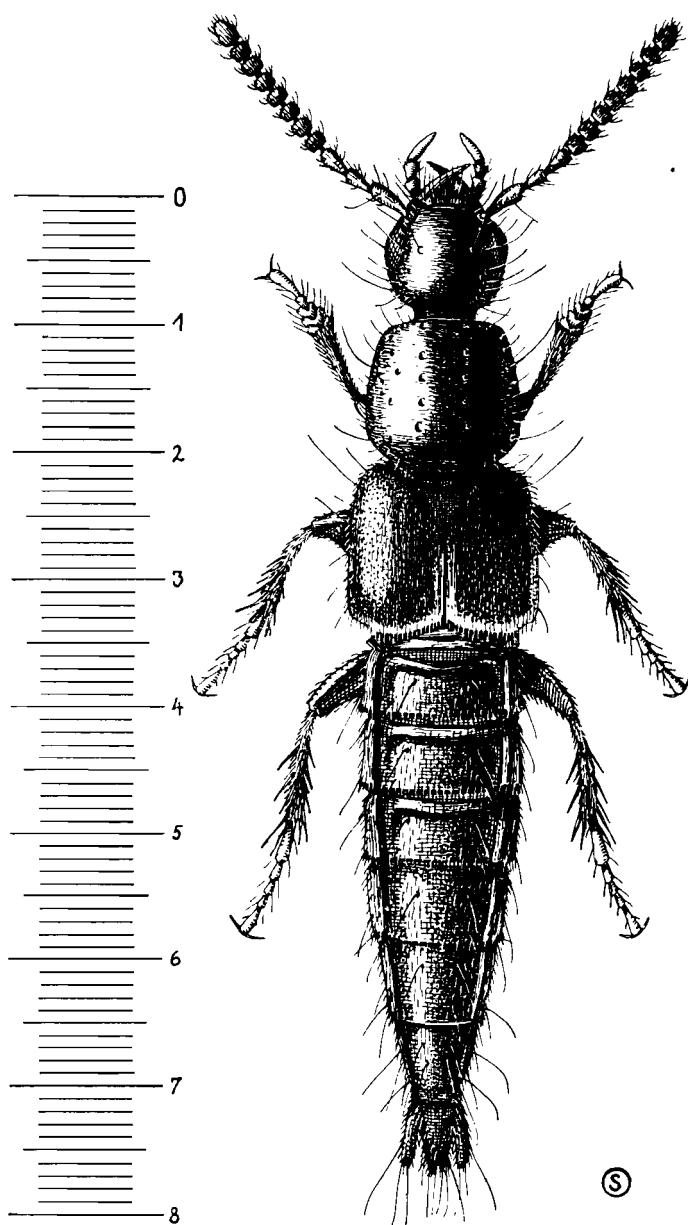


Fig. 2. — *Philonthus taterce* sp. nov. — Scale in millimetres.